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RUGELEY
Urban District Council.



YEAR 1925.

Medical Officer's
Report.

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To the Rugeley Urban District Council.

RUGELEY.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Sixteenth Annual Report, which is, this year, a Survey Report, covering the years 1921—1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA.

Area of District ... 651 Acres.
Population 1921 (Census) 4607—1925 (Estimated) 5197.

The district lies in the Trent Valley, South of that River, and North of Cannock Chase ; mainly on gravel and sandstone as to its N.-W. portion, and on marl to the S.-E.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921 ... 1056.
Rateable Value ... £15303.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... £53.

The chief occupation is mining, employment being afforded by several collieries on Cannock Chase. There is Tannery ; a Sock Manufactory ; and an Envelope Factory in the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		TOTAL.	M.	F.		
Births	Legitimate	128	64	64	Birth Rate ...	25.59
	Illegitimate	5	2	3		
Deaths	...	64	31	33	Death Rate ...	12.31

There were no deaths from childbirth during the year.

Deaths of children under one year of age—

Legitimate, 8 ; Illegitimate, 1. Total, 9.

Death Rate per 1000 Births, 67.6

The birth-rate for England and Wales is 18·3, and the death-rate is 12·2. The birth-rate for this district is therefore 7·2 above, and the death-rate, ·1 above those figures.

The Infantile death-rate for the whole county is 75 per 1000 births, and the rate for this district is 67·6, being 7·4 under.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There is no Infectious Hospital or Hospital of any kind provided by a public authority in the district. There is a small Cottage Hospital, with 13 beds, which is utilised by this district, and an area of about 25 square miles around it.

The Council have joined the South Staffordshire Joint Small-pox Hospital Board. For the isolation of other infectious disease the district is entirely dependent on its neighbours.

There is no institution for unmarried women, illegitimate children, and homeless children in the district.

There is a hand ambulance available for accidents, etc., which is kept at the Police Station.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There are none in the district.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

These consist of a part-time Medical Officer of Health, and part-time Sanitary Inspector.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are no arrangements for professional nursing at home. It is however possible to obtain the services of one of the Nurses at the District Hospital, when required for urgent cases, on the recommendation of one of the Medical Officers.

There are two Midwives in the district, one of whom is provided by the County Nursing Association.

The following adoptive Acts are in force in the District :—

Infectious Diseases Act, 1889.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1907; parts 2, 3, 4, except

Section 67, part 5; and Section 95, comprised in part 10.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISTRICT.

WATER.

There is at present a good water supply which comes from an artesian well on Cannock Chase. This has been in operation since 1895, and is the property of the Council. Since its inauguration the number of houses in the district has considerably increased, most of them have been supplied with W.C's.; and many other conveniences, involving a water supply, have been provided, such as baths, out-door taps, etc. In addition to this a considerable amount of water is supplied to houses situated in the Lichfield Rural District. As a consequence of this, the reservoir has become too small to meet the increasing demands on it, and there is no reserve available of any extra supply of water were it needed for a fire or other purposes.

The South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. have bought all the land surrounding the reservoir, and it would be difficult, if not impossible, to enlarge it if required. They are also boring for water in the immediate vicinity of the Council's bore hole, but are not at present going on with the work. They have, however, under the Act of Parliament authorising the scheme, been placed under an obligation to furnish a supply of water on terms, should their operations interfere with the water supply of this Council.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

One small stream runs through the district but is not polluted in any way.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is a complete system of Sewerage, which is dealt with by septic tanks, and which has hitherto worked satisfactorily.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Most of the houses in the district are supplied with W.C's, and as opportunity arises, further conversions of existing privies are made. Fourteen privies have been converted to W.C's during the past year. There are now 65 privies and 28 pail closets in the district.

SCAVENGING.

Ashes and other refuse are removed in carts provided by the Council. Movable ash bins are used by the great majority of houses, and 36 additional ash bins were provided in 1925.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Two actions have been taken for excessive smoke production, and the nuisance has been stopped.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners.

No

action

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

taken

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.

under

these

acts.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

There are five licensed cowkeepers in the district who keep two or three cows, and distribute the milk almost immediately after milking; and seven licensed retailers of milk who bring the milk in carts from the surrounding districts.

No action has been taken as to tuberculous milk.

MEAT.

No arrangements for regular Meat Inspection were made in the past, but in the future regular inspections will be made by the newly appointed Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Banwell, who holds a Meat Inspection Certificate.

There are no public slaughter houses.

The number of private slaughter houses are—

	In 1920.	In Jan. 1925.	In Dec. 1925.
Registered	6	5	5
Licensed	6	5	5

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OTHER FOODS.

No action has been found necessary.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE GENERALLY.

During the five years 1921—1925, the number of cases of notifiable Infectious Disease and deaths therefrom have been as follows:—

	1921.		1922		1923.		1924.		1925.		TOTALS.	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Diphtheria	4	1	5	1	2		4	1			13	3
Scarlet Fever			16		47		12		4		79	
Pneumonia	11	8	8	1	4	1	1	4	5	2	29	16
Puerperal Fever			1	1			1	1			2	2
Erysipelas	1				3				1		5	
Encephalitis Lethargica					1	1	2	1	1		4	2
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1										1	
Tuberculosis (Pulm) ...	3	1	7	5	2	4	3	1	10	3	25	13
„ (Non-Pulm)			2		4	2		1	1		7	3

DEATHS FROM NON NOTIFIABLE ZYMOTIC DISEASE.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	TOTALS
Influenza			2	5	2	11
Whooping Cough				2	4	6
Infectious Enteritis (under 1 year)			2	1		3

During the five years under review, there has been no outbreak of Infectious disease in any way approaching an epidemic, as can be seen from the statistics. It will be observed that there has not been a single case of small pox or enteric fever during the period.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING THE YEAR 1925.

	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 „	3 to 4 „	4 to 5 „	5 to 10 „	10 to 15 „	15 to 20 „	20 to 35 „	35 to 45 „	45 to 65 „	Over 65 „	Total.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever					3	1						4	0
Erysipelas										1		1	0
Pneumonia	2				2				1			5	2
Encephalitis Lethargica					1							1	0

One death from Pneumonia had not been previously notified.

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1925.

NEW CASES.

DEATHS.

AGE PERIOD.	PULMONARY.		NON PULMONARY.		PULMONARY.		NON PULMONARY.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
10								
15								
20		1				1		
25	4	1						
35	2	1			1			
45		1			1			
55								
65 & o'r								
TOTALS.	6	4	1	0	2	1	0	0

I have no knowledge of any cases of Tuberculosis that were not notified.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS, ETC.

The County Council have a Laboratory at Wolverhampton, to which specimens can be sent gratis, and a report thereon obtained.

I have not heard of the Schick or Dick tests being used in this district.

DISINFECTION.

There is no Steam Steriliser and no particular facilities for cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings. Disinfection of rooms and articles exposed to infection is carried out by Formalin and up to now I have had no reason to believe that the disinfection has not been adequate.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)

REGULATIONS, 1925.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the above Regulations.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This scheme is carried out by the County Council. During the year 47 visits have been made to expectant mothers and 1623 visits to children. Nurse Leeworthy resigned her position in June and Nurse Reynolds, her successor, took up her duties in December.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre for the district which is worked in conjunction with the Lichfield Rural District.

As the foregoing report shews, the health of the district, both for the last year and for the last five years has been normal and satisfactory. There have been no epidemics and no excessive mortality from any cause. The water supply, however, is a cause for anxiety and I hope the Council will endeavour to place this on a better footing than it is at present. I think there are ways and means of doing so.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD FREER.

Causes of Death in Rugeley Urban District, 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES—(Civilians only).			31	33
1	Enteric Fever ...	...	
2	Small-pox ...	...	
3	Measles ...	...	1	
4	Scarlet Fever ...	...		4
5	Whooping Cough ...	...	
6	Diphtheria ...	...		2
7	Influenza ...	...		1
8	Encephalitis lethargica ...	...	
9	Meningococcal Meningitis ...	...	
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	...	2	1
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	
12	Cancer, malignant disease ...	...	1	4
13	Rheumatic Fever ...	...	
14	Diabetes ...	...		1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. ...	...		3
16	Heart Disease ...	...	3	6
17	Arterio-sclerosis ...	...	4	1
18	Bronchitis ...	...	4	2
19	Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	3	
20	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	1	
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	...	
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	...	1	
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	...	
24	Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	...	2	
26	Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	
27	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition			
28	Congenital Debility, and Malformation, Premature Birth ...	...	1	1
29	Suicide ...	...	
30	Other Deaths from Violence ...	...	1	
31	Other defined Diseases ...	...	7	6
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	...		1
Special Causes (included above)				
	Poliomyelitis ...	...	
	Polioencephalitis ...	...	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (total)			5	4
	Illegitimate ...	...	1	
TOTAL BIRTHS ...			66	67
	Legitimate ...	...	64	64
	Illegitimate ...	...	2	3
POPULATION (ESTIMATED) ...			5197	

